

## **Request for Economic Stimulus Funds**

### **Concept Proposal**

#### **Submitters (Energy and Sustainability, Doug Whitlock and Jim Tracy):**

EKU Center for Appalachian Studies

Alan Banks, director

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#### **Project Title:**

Kentucky River Documentary Film Project

#### **Project Partners (Known or Anticipated):**

This project will be carried out by EKU's Center for Appalachian Studies with two community partners: Kentucky Riverkeeper, Inc. and Appalshop.

- Appalshop is an award-winning cultural center located in Whitesburg, along the headwaters of the Kentucky River. For almost 40 years they have been documenting the history and culture of the Appalachian Region. Herb E. Smith has been a part of the Appalshop team since the first. His recent videotape, *Wendell Berry's Thoughts in the Presence of Fear*, was broadcast statewide by KET and has been shown in film festivals, colleges and universities (including EKU, WKU, UK, Transylvania U., Berea College, and Spalding), and meetings of numerous community groups.
- In residence at EKU's Center for Appalachian Studies, Kentucky RIVERKEEPER is an independent 501(c)3 corporation that is part of the Waterkeeper ALLIANCE, a coalition of nearly 200 "Keepers" around the world. It is one of the fastest growing environmental groups over the last decade and is led by its president Robert Kennedy, Jr. The EKU—Riverkeeper partnership is designed to promote place-based research and regional stewardship. This provides a vehicle for students and community representatives to learn valuable research skills and a sense of the importance of active citizenship and university/community partnership. It links the human and technical resources of the university with the communities we serve.
- Eastern Kentucky University's Center for Appalachian Studies has been working on community based environmental projects since its inception nearly a decade ago. These projects range from research projects like the Headwaters Project and the Kentucky Riverkeeper Survey to creative projects like Shaped by Water and two documentary films-see <http://www.appalachianstudies.eku.edu/>.

#### **Project Background & Purpose (Justification for Project):**

Over the past year, the Kentucky Riverkeeper along with EKU students/faculty associated with the Center for Appalachian Studies have been meeting with county judge executives, mayors and other local officials to better understand their view of issues related to the Kentucky River. A survey, compiled by students, faculty and Kentucky Riverkeeper Pat Banks, has been sent to these officials (see <http://www.appalachianstudies.eku.edu/projects/KyRiverSurvey/>). The general agreement is that we have mistreated the Kentucky River and missed opportunities. It is time to take better care of this resource and to seize opportunities to promote regional stewardship, identify/protect wetlands, historic sites and places of

great beauty and create jobs in recreation/tourism. Several county officials also spoke about a need for more information about the potential role of the river for use in public education and public service announcements. Our plan to create an educational DVD/documentary on the Kentucky River emerged out of this conversation.

**Project Description (General Goals & Implementation Strategies):**

The Kentucky River is a major asset of the commonwealth. More than 800,000 Kentuckians rely on it for drinking water. The economic potential of the river is great, but largely underdeveloped. For most citizens, the river conjures images of pollution and maybe historic significance. It is largely out of sight and out of the minds of most Kentuckians. Using the survey responses and interviews from stakeholders throughout the watershed as a starting point, we plan to create an educational DVD/documentary on the Kentucky River. The project could begin as early as this summer. It could be completed within eighteen months to two years. Put simply, we want to make a documentary that will be useful for policymakers and educators for many years—to reinvigorate a discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing this magnificent natural resource.

**Project Team (Project Manager(s), Content Experts, Instructional Designers, etc.):**

Alan Banks, sociologist with expertise in regional development in Appalachia.

Herb E. Smith, award-winning filmmaker from Appalshop.

Pat Banks, author, artist, activist, executive director of Kentucky Riverkeeper.

**Project Budget & Amount of Economic Stimulus Funds Requested:**

**(NOTE: This is a draft budget. No indirects are included)**

<b>Working Budget for Kentucky River DVD</b>			
<u>Personnel</u>			
Director	5 weeks	1100/week	\$5,500.00
Cameraperson	12 days	200/day	\$2,400.00
Sound recordist	12 days	175/day	\$2,100.00
Editor	4 weeks	750/week	\$3,000.00
Riverkeeper	10 weeks	\$500/week	\$5,000.00
	Fringe		\$2,600.00
		Total personnel	\$20,600.00
Boat Rentals, guides and other expenses			\$3,000.00
Printed/Ed. Materials			\$6,000.00
Automotive & travel expenses			\$5,000.00
Videotape and production supplies			\$1,750.00
DVD duplication			\$500.00
Equipment use fees			\$3,000.00
Appalshop Administrative costs (telephone, office equip, bookkeeping, and other office expenses)			\$6,000.00
		<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$45,850.00</b>